

other impressive accomplishments as well. He was a founding member of the Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick HIV CARE Network. Last and hardly least, he is married to Marilyn Echevarría, and has an 11-year-old son, Austin.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rivera has gained the respect of all who have had the privilege of knowing him, and all who have been blessed by experiencing his dedication and compassion. He has saved lives, and he has made lives better, all by his example that life is to be lived. He is a ripple of hope, and this world is a better place for his being in it.

NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, President Clinton announced his decision to lift some sanctions against North Korea. This is an historic move that comes at a time of real opportunity in United States-North Korea relations, one that does as much to ensure a lasting peace in Korea as any diplomatic initiative taken in the past 50 years.

In the past 3 years, I have spent considerable time on the challenges that North Korea represents. I have made five visits there to see first-hand the famine that has claimed 2 million lives, according to most experts. I have met countless times with aid workers, with Korea-Americans, with experts on North Korea, and with officials from U.N. organizations and other nations. I have struggled to understand why North Korea acts as it does, and, like many of our colleagues, I have worried about the threat North Korea's military poses to the 37,000 American service men and women stationed in South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, my experiences convince me that President Clinton's action stands a better chance than any other alternative in helping the people of North Korea, and in safeguarding peace on the Korean Peninsula.

In the long run, I expect it will bring more freedom and less poverty—as we have seen happen in other communist states that open up to market forces. In the short term, this initiative will help maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula—a peace that South Korea's people and our troops depend upon. And, by removing an obstacle to President Kim Dae Jung's bold and innovative initiative to improve relations with North Korea, it lends support to efforts to encourage "the Hermit Kingdom" to become a responsible member of the international community.

Since I first began visiting North Korea in 1996, its leaders have said they want trade—not aid. I have rarely seen any people who work as hard as Koreans, and I am confident that North Korea's people can work their way

out of the terrible difficulties of recent years and end their reliance on international aid.

Friday's action was a bold step by President Clinton, but it was not the first in U.S. DPRK relations:

Under President Reagan that we first began serious efforts to improve relations with North Korea. His administration's "Modest Initiative" envisioned a gradual increase in contacts; unfortunately, that did not succeed.

A similar effort during President Bush's tenure also failed.

In 1994, the Agreed Framework again attempted to pave the way for better relations, while freezing nuclear production. Without that agreement, which has come under considerable criticism by Congress, North Korea probably would have dozens of nuclear weapons today. But while it succeeded in freezing nuclear production, the 1994 deal also foundered without achieving its other diplomatic goals.

This latest action is the culmination of countless hours of work by a talented group of diplomats headed by Ambassador Charles Kartman. It won needed attention with the assistance of Dr. William Perry and his insightful team. But what may make the outcome of this initiative different from its predecessors' is the dramatic change in North Korea's circumstances, and the actions of the unsung Americans who responded to the humanitarian crisis that resulted.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited many famine-stricken countries. When their crisis ends, some of them throw out the leaders who presided over the famine; some of them don't. But one thing that witnesses to a famine have in common is this: they remember. They remember who helped them in their time of need; they remember who found excuses to do too little as their loved ones suffered and died.

Sadly, North Koreans now know first-hand the sorrows of famine. But they also know that America was there with our food and our aid workers, doing what we could to help ease the suffering of those most vulnerable in any famine. No one better exemplifies their dedication and willingness to make extraordinary efforts than Ellis Culver, of Mercy Corps International. Ellis and his colleagues are among the real heroes of efforts to better understand North Korea, and to create a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

With their continued efforts, and the talents of our diplomats, we have an historic opportunity within our grasp. It is essential that this first step not be the last one. It makes sense for the President to maintain some sanctions, and I know our colleagues will need to see results before they can support lifting other sanctions. But 1999 ought to be the last time we allow a situation on the Korean Peninsula to reach a crisis point before we at least try to defuse it.

To secure the promise of this bold move, I hope the President will move quickly on other recommendations made by the Perry report, including the nomination of a senior-level envoy and the normalization of diplomatic relations. An American presence in North Korea will help ensure our policy stops careening from crisis to crisis, and it will provide Americans with consular protection.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Congress will give this initiative a chance. We all heard South Korea's president when he addressed a joint meeting of Congress earlier this year, and

when I met with him a few weeks ago he again urged the United States to do what the President did last week.

Throughout South Korea's history, the U.S. Congress has played an important role in ensuring its national security and assisting it achieve democracy. Now is the time for Washington to again support Seoul as it charts a new course in relations with its neighbor. The President cannot play this supporting role alone, nor can he succeed in improving United States-North Korea relations without congressional support.

I appreciate the concerns that some of our colleagues have expressed about North Korea. I believe that congressional insistence on a review of U.S. policy safeguarded our national security and probably helped to avert a new crisis with North Korea. But I also know that now is the time for Congress to respect the recommendations of former Defense Secretary Bill Perry, and the many requests of our ally in Seoul.

This is an historic opportunity for peace. The cold war that still lingers in this last corner of the world is not yet over, but the end is within our grasp. I urge my colleagues to lend whatever momentum we can to this initiative, and to the efforts of the many good people working to improve the situation for the ordinary people in North Korea. With luck, and the continuing efforts of the many people who share my concerns about their well-being, they will be the biggest beneficiary of this new policy. And they will remember this turning point.

A TRIBUTE TO GRADY OWENS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of one of the most remarkable individuals my 20th Congressional District of New York has ever produced. Grady Owens was one of those quiet individuals who never made headlines nor stirred controversy, and yet made a deep impact on the quality of our lives, most especially on those dear to him.

Grady Owens first came to Orange County, NY, as a young man in 1947. His uncle was the owner of the King's Lodge in Otisville, which was renamed the Betty Shabazz Retreat Center in 1998. King's Lodge was a well respected business which especially catered to people of color. Grady eventually came to be the third generation owner of the Lodge, at which he hosted some of the most famous and respected people of our time, including the beloved husband and wife acting team Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, and the renowned poet, Maya Angelou.

Grady became well known throughout our region as a person who would always go out of his way to say hello, to inquire about the health of the people he encountered, and to render his opinions on the issues of the day. Columnist Barbara Bedell, in reporting on Grady's passing in the Times Herald Record, noted that: "when he'd go to the post office for mail or run an errand around Middletown, you'd think he was running for office. Everyone knew him and he'd spend time conversing with each and every person as though he had all the time in the world."

Grady left Orange County for eight years, from 1961 to 1969, as a U.S. Marine, and was stationed in the deep south. During those years, he was refused a bus ticket because he refused to stand in the line reserved for "colored" people. In another incident, a bottle of ketchup was poured onto his head at a lunch counter which was not yet integrated. Despite these humiliating experiences, Grady refused to bear malice against those who practiced such hate. He heeded Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advice that the only way to conquer hate is through love, and that in fact hate is more harmful to the hater than the hated.

I had the privilege of membership in the Middletown (NY) Chapter of the NAACP during the years Grady was its president. He often recounted his own sad experiences with racism—always with regret rather than vengeance—and urged us to work to make certain that our children and future generations would not have to ever again bear such indignities.

Grady was married for over 30 years to the former Judy Joyiens of Queens. Judy reminisced that he was the kind of man that, when they were married, his former girl friends attended the ceremony.

Grady, who was only 61 years old when we lost him earlier this week, had lived the last 6 years of his life with a transplanted liver. Regrettably, his long struggle to regain his health did not succeed, but he remained an active and highly visible member of our community right up until the past few weeks.

In addition to his affiliation with our NAACP chapter, Grady was a member of the Lion's Club, the Board of Directors of the Horton Medical Center, and was active on the advisory board of Orange County Community College (of which he was a graduate), and served on the editorial board of the Times Herald Record.

Grady also attended Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

In addition to his wife, Judith, Grady is survived by his five children: Diane Fulston of Atlanta, GA; Robin Anderson of Middletown, NY; Keith L. Taylor of the Bronx; Erin Beth Owens, also of the Bronx; and Grady Dennis Owens, Jr., of Monroe, NY.

Grady leaves behind three sisters, one brother, three grand-children, and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. While no words can help ease the grief that his large, loving family is experiencing, hopefully the knowledge that many of us in what Grady considered his "extended family" share their deep sense of loss, and the realization that we have truly lost a remarkable individual will be of some consolation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join in extending our deepest sympathies to all of Grady Owen's many loved ones, with our sincerest regrets that this man who set a fine example for all of us in the 20th century will not be joining with us as we enter the new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO KIYOSHI PATRICK
OKURA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kiyoshi Patrick Okura on the occasion

of his 88th birthday and the 10-year anniversary of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. It is my great pleasure to count Pat as a personal friend, as well as one of the most esteemed members of the Japanese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Okura is not one to rest on the accolades of his exceptional list of accomplishments and contributions. In fact, even at age 88, he continues to contribute enormously to those around him. But I would like to take time now, in honor of the celebration of himself and his successes, to commend his constant efforts to improve all the communities he has lived in, and his willingness to serve the public.

Pat's leadership in the Asian American community, both local and national, has led to incredible gains in Asian American participation in Government. As the National President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Pat expanded the JACL's tradition of political engagement and brought the organization his message of empowerment. There are very few leaders who impress upon the younger members of a community the importance of engaging the political world as well as Pat. But when he shares his experiences as a Japanese American, his heartfelt encouragement and strength inspires youth with a remarkable motivation.

Pat's dedication to his country and his community shows through in his more than 50 years of work for government and service organizations. Perhaps even more dramatic than his career and volunteer work, however, was Pat's firm commitment to this nation and his personal ideals when he was threatened with slander, racism, and ignorance.

Early in his career, Pat distinguished himself as the first Japanese American to work for the City of Los Angeles' Civil Service Department. The leadership Pat displayed in his job was used against him, however, during the hysteria following the outbreak of the War in the Pacific. Despite his U.S. citizenship and years of working in public service, a writer from the Los Angeles Times falsely accused Pat of plotting espionage against the United States. Eventually Pat, his wife, their families, and thousands of other Japanese Americans, spent 9 months living in horse stables as internees at Santa Anita racetrack before being taken into internment camps.

In spite of the injustices thrust upon he and his family during the War, Pat continued to demonstrate his steadfast desire to help other people, becoming a psychologist at Father Flanagan's Boys Homes in Boys Town, Nebraska—a position he held for seventeen years.

Years later, Pat focused his leadership and compassion on winning reparations for the Japanese Americans arrested during World War II. Pat's efforts combined with other leaders in Asian American community and on all levels of government to win reparations and an apology to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Ten years ago, Pat and his wife Lily founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. During the past decade, the Foundation has raised awareness for the very specific mental health issues in the Asian American community. Each year, the Foundation brings Asian Americans to Washington, D.C., to meet

with health professionals and learn how to work with federal and state agencies to improve the health of their patients and community.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at the Ft. Myer's Army Base Officer's Club in Arlington, Virginia, there will be a very special event in Pat's honor. Pat and Lily will be joined by many of the dozens of young men and women who have benefited from their time as Okura Fellows, as well as many other well-wishers, to celebrate Pat's 88th birthday and commemorate his many accomplishments. As a friend of Pat's it gives me great joy to add to their voices in commending him on his tireless efforts and his well-earned successes. He has been a true leader for so many generations and communities who will always owe their heartfelt gratitude for his life's work.

A TRIBUTE TO MORTON COLLEGE
FOR THEIR SEVENTY-FIFTH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished community college located in my district, Morton College. Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, recently celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Morton College is a pioneer in the community college concept. Morton College serves various communities in my district, including Lyons, Berwyn, Cicero, McCook, and Stickney, Illinois. It was the people of these communities who in 1924 took note of the national movement towards junior colleges and established Morton College. It was originally housed on the third of floor of Morton High School in Cicero and came close to closing on various occasions, but was saved by the community residents. Since its creation, Morton College has grown from its enrollment of 76 students to 5,000 students.

Morton College has shown its gratitude to the community by providing working-class students with an affordable, home-based access to a university degree. The school's nighttime, weekend, and summer courses allow students to have part-time and full-time jobs and is especially convenient for new immigrants, working parents, and those wishing to go "back to school." Morton College's mission statement begins: "As a comprehensive Community College, recognized by the Illinois Community College Board, Morton College has the mission to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for its students and the community * * *". Morton College has continuously met and exceeded this high standard of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Morton College's fine educational achievements and wish them continued success in the future. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating them on their seventy-five years of dedicated service.